

REMARKS

The final Office Action mailed November 14, 2005 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 1-37 are pending.

In paragraph 3 on page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Harkins et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,513,126).

The Office Action states that Harkins teaches the invention substantially as claimed. The Office Action notes that the only difference between Harkins and Applicants' invention is that Harkins discloses transferring print jobs over a network channel whereas Applicants' invention calls for the transfer of print jobs over a data channel.

Moreover, in paragraph 44 on page 11, the Office Action cites several areas where Harkins teaches the use of a plurality of channels at a printer that can be assigned priority.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections. Moreover, Applicants respectfully disagrees with the characterization of the teachings of Harkins cited by the Office Action in paragraph 44 on page 11.

Harkins does not teach, disclose or suggest a printer having multiple data channels. Rather, Harkins discloses multiple devices, including multiple printers, e.g., a black and white printer, a color printer, etc., coupled to users via a network connection. However, each time Harkins mentions a printer, no reference is ever made to the printer having multiple input data channels that may be assigned a priority. In discussing printers, Harkins indicates that the a printer may be connected to a network channel for the purpose of allowing multiple users to share resources such as a printer.

Harkins does mention multiple communication channels in at some of the paragraphs cited by the Office Action in paragraph 44 on page 11. However, the reference to multiple communication channels is in the context of providing a plurality of communication channels for communicating information between subscribers. Harkins describes a send service that provides virtual links or communication channels to other users on network. Channels are published to the network by a receiver in the form of a receiver profile to provide the receiver with the flexibility to define the mode that the receiver's information should be received. A single communication channel is identified using the user's name as well as location and illustrative identification.

Thus, Harkins merely discloses a method for allowing a user to select modes for receiving data, i.e., hardcopy, facsimile, email, voicemail, etc. When another user sends data to the user, the profile is used to determine how the data is delivered to the user/receiver. Multiple channels are provided by a network arrangement allowing multiple user to share resources. Nevertheless, Harkins fails to suggest a printer having multiple input channels that may be assigned a priority.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are patentable over Harkins et al.

On the basis of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of this application and its allowance are requested.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Attorney for Applicants, David W. Lynch, at 651-686-6633 Ext. 116.

Respectfully submitted,

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